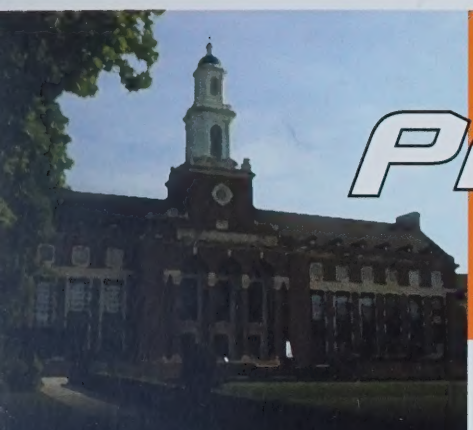

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A newsletter from the Friends of the OSU Library

PERSPECTIVES

Fall 2008 • Issue 43 • www.library.okstate.edu/friends

A Conversation with T. Boone Pickens, Record-Breaking Success

by Bonnie Ann Cain, APR

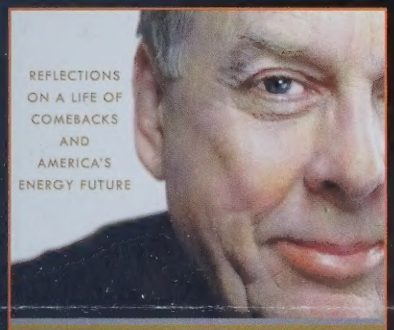
T. Boone Pickens is accustomed to breaking records. His recent appearance at the Friends of the OSU Library fundraiser was no exception. In the 18-year history of the event, Pickens' appearance holds the record for attendance, sponsorships, student interest and total funds raised for the Friends of the OSU Library.

The 2008 H. Louise & H.E. "Ed" Cobb Speaker Series featured "A Conversation with T. Boone Pickens." OSU President Burns Hargis conducted the interview. Nearly 400 guests were treated to stories, jokes and insights on Pickens' life, as President Hargis questioned him on topics ranging from growing up in small-town Oklahoma to the new Pickens Plan.

Pickens' development and advocacy of a new U.S. energy plan has generated an avalanche of political and media attention. The Pickens Plan (www.pickensplan.com) is a blueprint to reduce the nation's foreign oil dependence by harnessing domestic energy alternatives, and it is spelled out in Pickens' new book, "The First Billion is the Hardest."

"We were thrilled to host Mr. Pickens," said Sheila Grant Johnson, dean of libraries. "People are fascinated with him for so many reasons: his philanthropy, his business insights, his energy plan. President Hargis and Mr. Pickens touched on it all."

The event raised a record $35,000 for the Friends of the OSU Library. The group supports every student at OSU by funding library facilities, resources and services. Learn more about how your gift to the Friends helps OSU students by visiting www.library.okstate.edu/friends or by calling 405-744-6323.



Pickens signed 400 copies of his new book for guests at the H. Louise & H.E. "Ed" Cobb Speaker Series.

Highlights from Pickens & Hargis' conversation were featured in Hargis' weekly video address to campus.

Friends of the OSU Library 2008 Board of Directors

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A Place for Every Student

This column features students' library experiences. To read more stories, visit the Friends website at www.library.okstate.edu/friends or read future issue of *Perspectives*.

Germaine Paul said...

Many students utilize the Library to study with friends, conduct research and check out books for assignments or to write a paper. As a senior, the Library's services have become very integral for the level of involvement required in my classes. The quiet study area on the fourth floor of the Library is an excellent place to study. I study there on a weekly basis. There are no distractions on the fourth floor; I just get a chance to sort out my study materials and study in peace while listening to my iPod.

Germaine Paul, public relations senior, served as the fall 2007 Communications Intern at the OSU Libraries.

With the semester coming to a close, semester group projects are due. The group I'm working with on a project meets at the Library, we check out laptops from the circulation desk and go to either the group study area on the second or third floor. The tables for the group study areas are spacious so each member of the group can work separately and discuss items of business when necessary.

What the Library does...

Students have a variety of needs and they use the Library in different ways. We constantly strive to improve service so we can meet all the needs of today's student.

Many students work in large groups on collaborative projects. The Edmon Low Library has nine study rooms, providing an ideal setting for students working together on projects. The rooms are well lit and are furnished with conference-style tables and dry erase boards.

Other students need to get away from the hustle and bustle of the busier areas in the building to find a quiet and tranquil corner where they can immerse themselves in study. For these students we provide quiet and silent study areas on upper floors, away from the busier areas on the first floor. Some of these areas are furnished with individual study carrels; others have soft inviting lounge chairs with ottomans and arm tablets.

How you can help!

There are several ways to support the renovation and maintenance of study spaces at the OSU Library. Gifts of any amount to the Furniture and Renovation Fund help to ensure students have the highest quality desks and chairs for their work. (see related story on page 5 to learn more.)

Larger gifts can actually fund the renovation or maintenance of an entire study space. A gift of $50,000 will endow a group study room, providing ongoing funds to furnish, maintain and update technology in the room. A $100,000 donation will enable the Library to renovate and refurbish the fourth floor silent study area, mentioned by Germaine and one of the most popular silent study spaces in the building.

Contact Chad Haney, Director of Development, (405-744-6323 or chaney@osugiving.com) to learn more about supporting library facilities projects.

Capturing the Stories of Women in the Oklahoma Legislature

by Bonnie Ann Cain, APR

The initial interview phase for the *Women of the Oklahoma Legislature Oral History Project* is coming to a close. "We have about 10 more interviews to conduct. This week I'm meeting with Mary Fallin," said Tanya Finchum, the primary researcher for the project.

The project strives to document the lives and experiences of Oklahoma female legislators, both past and present. Interviews began in December 2006, and Finchum hopes to complete this preliminary phase soon.

"Unfortunately, we can't include every single female legislator. There are some we have not located, a few are unavailable to participate, and a small number have already passed away," Finchum said. "We will have interviews with more than 50 of the 76 Oklahoma women who have held office so far. As more women are elected, we hope to add them to the collection."

While each interview gives insight to the individual experiences, Finchum was surprised by some of the shared experiences.

"Most of the women complained about how cold the chamber was. The thermostat was set for comfort in a men's three-piece suit, not the typical women's business dress."

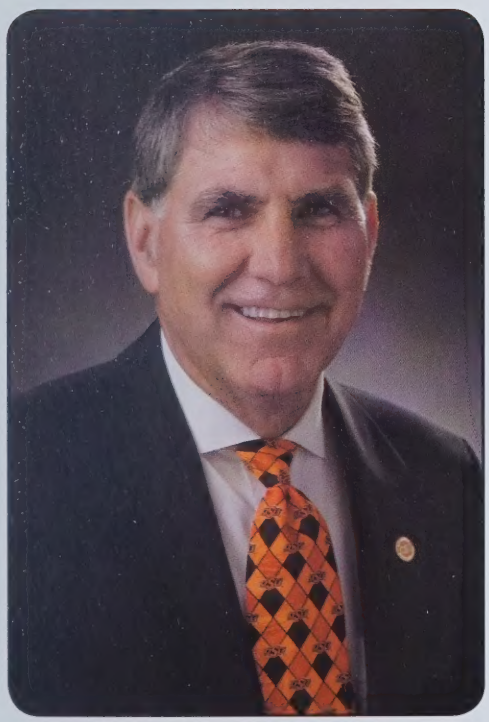
Completing the interview process is a milestone for any oral history project, but it is just the beginning for this particular kind of research project. With the recordings in hand, the oral history team will now transcribe, audit check and edit each interview. The resulting draft is then returned to the interviewee for additional comment. Their feedback is added and the final transcript, along with the actual recording, is the basis of the collection.

The online presentation of the *Women of the Oklahoma Legislature* is already in production. Once completed, visitors to the site will be able to view the full transcripts, listen to the recordings, and view photos and other memorabilia.

According to Finchum the collection is unique. "We don't often find accounts of the political careers of women legislators. That's one reason we are building this oral history collection," she said.

To learn more about the *Oklahoma Oral History Research Program* and ways to participate or support the program, contact Dr. Jennifer Paustenbaugh at 405-744-9778 or jennifer.paustenbaugh@okstate.edu.

Jerry Gill Joins Oral History Team



by Valerie Trammell

The Oklahoma State Library welcomes Jerry Gill as the coordinator of the *O-State Stories Project* of the *Oklahoma Oral History Research Program*.

Jerry previously served as president and CEO of the OSU Alumni Association for 22 years. He also worked in OSU athletics, serving as both Associate Director of High School and College Relations and Director of Athletic Gift Programs.

The *Oklahoma Oral History Research Program* was created to document and make accessible the history of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University through oral history interviews. The *O-State Stories* project (www.library.okstate.edu/oralhistory/ostate/) was launched in 2006 to preserve memories from alumni, administrators, faculty, staff and supporters connected to Oklahoma A&M College and Oklahoma State University. Many interviews with former students representing various disciplines have already been conducted and are available online. "I'm really excited about this program and its potential to promote the history, heritage and traditions of Oklahoma State for generations to come," Gill said.

A Cowboy through and through, Gill attended OSU on a football scholarship where he lettered for 3 years. He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in history from OSU.

Gill is a graduate of Leadership Stillwater and has served in leadership roles in United Way, First Methodist Church and various professional organizations. He and his wife, Susan, have four children and two grandchildren.

Justice Steven Taylor Named 2008 Edna Mae Phelps Award Winner

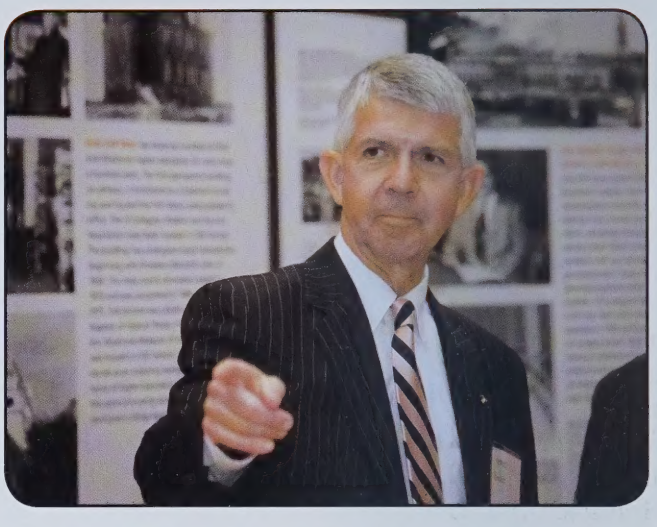
by Maggie Kierl, OSU Library Communications Intern

This year's Edna Mae Phelps Award was presented to Justice Steven W. Taylor. The highest honor bestowed by the Friends of the OSU Library, it was presented September 5 at the H. Louise & H.E. "Ed" Cobb Speaker Series dinner.

The award has been given annually since 1994. It recognizes individuals who have substantially and unselfishly gone above and beyond duty to increase the effectiveness of the OSU Library. Jennifer Paustenbaugh, Associate Dean of Libraries and Puterbaugh Professor of Library Science, nominated Taylor.

"As chair of the Puterbaugh Foundation, Justice Taylor has renewed the Foundation's interest in the OSU Library. Between 2004 and 2005, with Justice Taylor as a member and later managing trustee, the Puterbaugh Foundation doubled its original gift to the Puterbaugh Professorship of Library Service," Paustenbaugh said.

The professorship funded Paustenbaugh's attendance at the Western Archives Institute and later supported the implementation of preservation practices she learned there. It also made possible the oral history project, *Women in the Dustbowl*, paying the salary of a Graduate Assistant, travel to interview sites, and transcription of the interviews.



Taylor earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science from Oklahoma State University in 1971, and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma Law in 1974. He was involved in student government, honor society and was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity while he was a student at OSU.

OSU recognized Taylor as a "Leadership Legacy" in 2002 and as a "Distinguished Alumnus" in 2003. Justice Taylor also was inducted into the Oklahoma State University Hall of Fame in 2007. *Oklahoma* magazine named Taylor in the "100 Who Shaped Us"- a list of Oklahomans who influenced the first 100 years of our state.

"Justice Taylor has been widely recognized for his outstanding achievements in his career, as a public servant and as an alumnus of OSU. He has used his influence, leadership and enthusiasm to bring attention to the Library," Paustenbaugh said.

FRIENDS OF THE OSU LIBRARY

The laptop check-out program expands to 150 machines thanks to the Friends of the OSU Library. The Board unanimously voted to spend $27,500 from the Friends fund to purchase 25 laptops and a charging station. *Your donations to the Friends make programs like this possible. Thanks for your support!*

Perspectives is published twice a year to inform Friends of the OSU Library about issues, activities, collections & services of the Oklahoma State University Library.
SHEILA GRANT JOHNSON,
OSU Dean of Libraries

Comments and questions about the content may be referred to the senior communications specialist.

Phone: (405) 744-7331; Fax: (405) 744-7579
Email: lib-pub@okstate.edu
The OSU Library's World Wide Web address is www.library.okstate.edu

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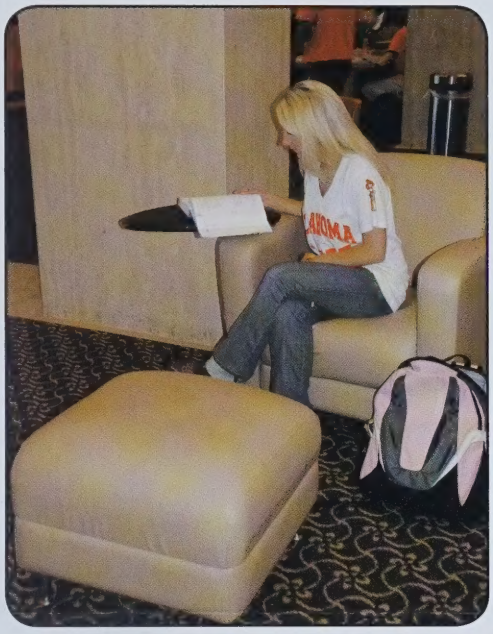
Furnishing & Renovations Fund

by Bonnie Ann Cain, APR

The Edmon Low Library opened its doors in 1953. At the time, it was appointed with top of the line library furniture designed to last for decades. Some of those pieces are still being used today.

After more than 50 years of wear and tear, those original desks and chairs are still the site of hours of daily study by OSU students. It's a perfect illustration of the value of investing in high quality furnishings designed to withstand years of heavy use.



Oversized chairs, found throughout the building, have become a highly-sought seat for students planning to study for hours or those just looking for a quick break between classes.

"We are fortunate that the original planners for this building saw the value of investing in furniture designed for library use. It has lasted an amazing length of time, but is beginning to show its age," said Sheila Grant Johnson, dean of libraries.

Over the past 50 years, the needs of college students have changed dramatically. The library is open until 2 a.m. most evenings, so adequate lighting is an issue in some areas. Many students are working on laptops placing a high demand on available electrical outlets. The furnishings being added now reflect these modern needs.

Large soft chairs with ottomans and built-in desks encourage students to get comfortable and stay for hours. Desks equipped with personal lamps and electrical outlets create an ideal study space for consulting both printed materials as well as online sources via laptops.

"The new oversized chairs and ottomans are very popular," Johnson said. "We now have these on the first, second and fourth floors. We'd like to add more."

The Library has identified the areas in greatest need of new furniture, and pieces are steadily being adding. Plans are in progress to add new desks and chairs to the second floor mezzanine and the Reading Room.

"Each year, we refurnish a new section of the building. Unfortunately, budget constraints slow our progress. That is why we are asking for help to build a Furnishing and Renovations Fund," Johnson said.

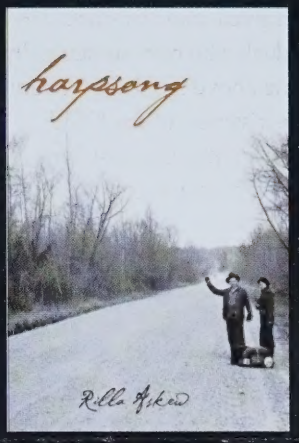
AFTER MORE THAN 50 YEARS OF WEAR AND TEAR, THOSE DESKS AND CHAIRS ARE STILL THE SITE OF HOURS OF DAILY USE BY OSU STUDENTS.

The Furnishing and Renovations Fund will be used to help modernize the building and add furnishings to meet the needs of 21st-century college students. Gifts of any amount help ensure that the Library remains a place where students feel welcome and comfortable.

Upcoming Events

New events are added regularly. Visit www.library.okstate.edu/news/calendar.htm or call 405-744-7331 to learn more about upcoming events.

- **When**: November 13, 7 pm
  What: Statehood Day Program with Oklahoma Author Rilla Askew
  Where: Peggy V. Helmerich Browsing Room, Edmon Low Library
  Details: This event is co-sponsored by the Center for Oklahoma Studies.



Selections of Askew's work will be for sale at a booksigning reception following the talk.

- **When**: November 18, noon
  What: Noon Concert Series featuring Trombone and Horn
  Where: Peggy V. Helmerich Browsing Room, Edmon Low Library
  Details: Event is co-sponsored by the Edmon Low Library Staff Association, the Friends of the OSU Library and OSU Music.

- **When**: February 17, 4:30-6:30 pm
  What: Celebrating Books by OSU Authors
  Where: Peggy V. Helmerich Browsing Room, Edmon Low Library
  Details: The event honors OSU employees who have authored, co-authored or edited a book in 2007 or 2008. Also included are creative works such as musical composition, art exhibit catalog or audio recording.

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11/08

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